

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102

Examiner has stated that Claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-15, and 20-25 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Soeno. In response, Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to include the limitation:

an electrical circuit for energizing said first and said second piezoelectric sections to cause them to expand and contract in order to *linearly* move said read/write head so that said read/write head is precisely positioned over said selected track, said circuit and said piezoelectric sections being configured such that said first piezoelectric section expands when said second piezoelectric section contracts and said first piezoelectric section contracts when said second piezoelectric section expands. (emphasis added)

Applicant submits that Soeno's FIG. 5 does not show linear motion of the read/write head. Rather, Soeno's microactuator is designed to move the read/write head in an arc-like motion, as illustrated by the arrows in FIG. 5. Applicant's microactuator is a solid rectangular block. The motion caused by actuation of Applicant's microactuator is a simple, linear motion and is more desirable for read/write head positioning. The simplicity of Applicant's microactuator with a rectangular block design and linear motion provides significant savings in the cost of manufacture.

Claim 1 should now be allowable. Claims 2 – 3, 5 – 7, and 23 depend on Claim 1 and should likewise be allowable.

Claim 8 has been amended in a fashion similar to Claim 1. Claim 8 should therefore now be allowable. Claims 9 – 10, 12 – 14, and 24 depend on Claim 8 and should likewise be allowable.

Claim 15 has also been amended and should now be allowable. Claims 20 – 22 and 25 depend on Claim 15 and should likewise be allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter

Examiner has stated that Claims 4 and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicant has cancelled Claims 4 and 11 and written new Claims 26 and 27 that include the limitations of Claims 4 and 11, respectively, and all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, Claims 26 and 27 should now be allowable.

New Claim 28

Applicant has added new Claim 28 to include the limitation:

- ... E) a *gapless* microactuator, said microactuator further comprising:
- 1) an inner inactive region,
 - 2) a first outer inactive region,
 - 3) a second outer inactive region,
 - 4) a first piezoelectric section sandwiched between said first outer inactive region and said inner inactive region,
 - 5) a second piezoelectric section sandwiched between said second outer inactive region and said inner inactive region,
- wherein said inner inactive region is sandwiched between said first piezoelectric section and said second piezoelectric section, wherein said inner inactive region is firmly attached to one of said flexure or said slider and both of said outer inactive regions being firmly attached to the other of said flexure or said slider, ... (emphasis added)

Applicant submits that none of the references cited by examiner show a gapless microactuator similar to Applicant's microactuator 18 (FIGS. 2 - 8, 12 - 14). Rather, all of Soeno's embodiments show microactuators that have air gaps somewhere between the inner inactive region, the first outer inactive region, the second outer inactive region, the first piezoelectric section and the second piezoelectric section. In contrast, Applicant's microactuator is a solid rectangular block having no air gaps. The simplicity of Applicant's microactuator with a solid rectangular block design provides significant savings in the cost of manufacture.

New Claims 29 and 30

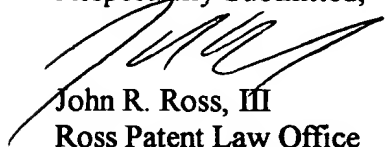
Applicant has added new Claim 29. New Claim 29 is the same as Claim 28 except it substitutes the limitation "rectangular block microactuator" in place of "gapless" microactuator. As stated above, none of the references cited by examiner show or

suggest a rectangular block microactuator or a gapless microactuator. Claim 28 should therefore be allowable. Claim 30 depends on Claim 29 and should also be allowable.

CONCLUSION

Thus, for all the reasons given above, this application, as the claims are presently limited, define a novel, patentable, and truly valuable invention. Hence allowance of all of the outstanding claims of this application is respectfully submitted to be proper and is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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